

Boulevard Planning Group  
**MINUTES/SUMMARY, September 3, 2009**  
Boulevard Fire and Rescue Inc. Bay Mtg. Area, 39919 Highway 94/Ribbonwood

**The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM. Members present: Darlene Koczka, Cheryl Lenz, Jeffrey McKernan, Chris Noland, Pat Stuart, and Donna Tisdale (Chair).**

- 1) **MINUTES:** M/S Stuart/Noland to accept the August 27 minutes as written.  
**PASSED: 4-0-2. Koczka and Lenz abstained because they did not attend that meeting.**

2) **NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. NEW 160MW CAMPO BAND WIND FARM WITH SDG&E AND INVENERGY:** Campo Tribal Chair La Chappa provided her educational background and an overview of their project. She said it is a 160MW project which is still in negotiations. A master lease has not been agreed to but a permit for access has been granted to install 6 MET towers. Five have been installed and number six is slated for the proposed Campo Landfill site. There is a possibility of 80 industrial wind turbines in this project. Chair La Chappa stated that they are against the Sunrise Powerlink project and have stated so in writing, but she was adamant that this current project is not tied in to it. Chair Tisdale reported that the CALISO has determined that the Sunrise Powerlink is needed to move any extra energy out of the area. She asked if SDGE had divulged to La Chappa that this project is indeed tied into the Sunrise Powerlink and asked if this information had been provided to La Chappa before signing the support letter of the Eco Substation. Don Parent of SDG&E stated that this project is driven by the renewable energy proposals here for wind or any solar. We cannot get any more power into the existing lines. When Chair Tisdale asked again about full disclosure by SDG&E, Don Parent stated that Chair La Chappa should have known that the Eco Substation and Sunrise Powerlink were connected. Comments from planning group members and the public raised the off-reservation noise complaints with current Kumeyaay Wind turbines, pointed to new information regarding negative health and safety issues, property value impacts, questioned the output from the existing turbines, and stated the new turbines will be outdated dinosaurs by the time the tribe takes them over. Chair LaChappa stated they were unaware of noise complaints. She also stated that the lease arrangement for the existing turbines is a passive agreement. La Chappa stated that if the Bureau of Indian Affairs determines that a full EIS is necessary, they will conduct one with outside input to make it a better project.

**M/S MCKERNAN/STUART TO REQUIRE A FULL JOINT EIS/EIR FOR THE NEW CAMPO WIND PROJECT FROM FEDERAL AND STATE. PASSED: 6-0-0.**

**B. APPOINTMENT FOR VACANT SEAT #5:** August 31<sup>st</sup> was the deadline for submitting applications for this vacancy. One was received in a timely manner from Tammy Daubach and one was a day late from Larry Smith. Each candidate gave a

statement and answered questions from the audience. Several commenters noted that Daubach had participated in many planning group meetings while Smith had rarely done so.

**VOTE: TAMMY DAUBACH – 6 VOTES/LARRY SMITH – 0 VOTES**

**C. NEW US BORDER PATROL STATION PROPOSED IN BOULEVARD:**

The Chair and Vice-Chair had compiled draft comment sheets after reading the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) which is out for public review: [www.ecso.swf.usace.army.mil](http://www.ecso.swf.usace.army.mil) under the link for Documents for Public Review/Comment. The Chair's draft comment sheet had the word helicopters added to item #8, and the Vice-Chair's draft comment sheet had the words "and detainees as well" added to Section 3.7 - #3. Comments are due by September 15<sup>th</sup>. The comments were approved for submission.

**M/S TISDALE/STUART TO REQUIRE A FULL EIR/EIS WITH PUBLIC HEARINGS IN THE IMPACTED AREA. PASSED: 6-0-0.**

**D. US FOREST SERVICE PROPOSES TO ALLOW 3 MET TOWERS FOR WIND ENERGY TESTING:**

The location for these 197 foot towers of Fred Canyon north of I-8 near La Posta Truck Trail. This wind turbine test is proposed by Scott Debenham of Debenham Energy. Chair Tisdale encouraged everyone to send in comments before the deadline of September 15<sup>th</sup>.

**M/S NOLAND/KOCZKA TO OPPOSE ALLOWANCE OF THESE THREE MET TOWERS ON NATIONAL FOREST LAND. PASSED: 6-0-0.**

**E. DENSITY BONUS ORDINANCE (POD 08-002):** Density exceptions for affordable or senior housing developments that meet the requirements may be permitted to exceed the maximum density designated by the General Plan. The Chair said that this means that if a developer wants to have a big project, they can actually have more houses per acre if some of them are designated as "low income". This is a problem in groundwater dependent communities.

**M/S KOCZKA/LENZ TO DRAFT A LETTER TO OPPOSE INCREASED DENSITY EAST OF THE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY LINE. PASSED: 6-0-0.**

**3. UPDATES AND POTENTIAL ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING:**

**A. CPUC APPLICATION NO. A.09-08-003: SDG&E'S ECO SUBSTATION: EXPANSION OF BOULEVARD SUBSTATION AND NEW TRANSMISSION LINES FOR WIND ENERGY PROJECTS:**

Don Parent and Alan Dusi spoke representing SDGE on this project. Parent said that the Eco Substation project is comprised of 4 elements that are driven by interest from wind developers on both sides of the border but it would also accommodate other renewable energy sources that private developers might want to develop in this area. There are several developments that have been proposed that are on the California Independent System Operator for the State, the grid controller – they are in their queue – and when there are a certain amount, SDGE has the responsibility to accommodate them. The current infrastructure cannot accept any more power on the grid. The project consists of a major sub-station in the Jacumba area which will be a tie into the existing Southwest Powerlink with a re-build and expansion of the existing Boulevard sub-station. And a tie-line between those two sub-stations of 138 kV which includes a re-build of their communications facility at the new sub-station and at White Star. SDG&E is buying about 500 acres for the new Eco Substation in Jacumba. The Chair asked why the Sunrise Powerlink information, and the significant and cumulative impacts were absent from the Eco project documents. Dusi stated that Sunrise had not been approved when the Eco Substation project started. The Chair noted that there had been at least 7 months since that approval and the document should have been updated. The Vice-Chair, following-up a question from the audience, asked Mr. Dusi why the Sunrise Powerlink or other projects that are in the CALISO queue were not considered “foreseeable future connections” as required by CEQA. Mr. Dusi answered that SDG&E did not consider the CALISO queues “future connections”, so they were not evaluated in the Eco Substation Project. The Chair provided copies of draft comments that were accepted.

**M/S LENZ/TISDALE TO REQUIRE A FULL EIR AND EIS ON THIS AND CONNECTED ACTIONS AND REQUEST THAT SCOPING MEETINGS BE HELD IN THE IMPACTED AREAS AND TO ATTACH THE CHAIR’S COMMENT’S TO THE LETTER. PASSED: 6-0-0.**

**B. COMMUNITY CENTER/FIRE STATION ISSUES:** This issue was tabled. There will be a stakeholders meeting with Supervisor Dianne Jacob on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

**C. SDG&E’S PROPOSED POWER SHUT-OFF PLAN:** The CPUC will vote on this on September 10<sup>th</sup>.

**D. SUNRISE POWERLINK / BLM AND RELATED ISSUES:** There are legal challenges to the Sunrise Powerlink. For updated information go to: [www.EastCountyAction.org](http://www.EastCountyAction.org) or [www.protectourcommunities.org](http://www.protectourcommunities.org).

**E. IBERDROLA RENEWABLES 200 MW TULE WIND PROJECT PROPOSED FOR MCCAIN VALLEY:** A plan of development and a revised plan of development have been submitted to BLM. Updated information has been requested. Iberdrola has received \$300 million of Stimulus money for wind farms in the United States. Iberdrola is a Spanish corporation. None of the Stimulus money Iberdrola is projected to receive will come to California.

**F. PROPOSED CAMPO LANDFILL:** The Supplemental EIS will be out late October or early November. Chair La Chappa said they will come back to the Planning Group for that meeting.

**4. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 PM. Minutes are submitted by Cheryl Lenz, Secretary.

For more information, contact  
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